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THE LAW OF ELECTRICITY. By Arthur F. Curtis. Matthew Bender & Co., 109 State Street, Albany, N. Y. 1915. pp. lxxxiv, 1033. \$7.50.

A subject of this kind cuts a cross-section, not only through the substantive law of torts, contracts, and property, but also through such specialties as municipal corporations, street railroads, eminent domain, etc. The novel situations arising from the use of electricity are sometimes found to fit accurately within the detailed principles already laid down, as for example, where in street railways electricity is substituted for the horse, or where a power company is brought within the rules of public service, although in the latter case the Washington court holds a contrary view. In still other situations no convenient analogies seem to apply, and the courts are forced to work out the specific rules with no guide other than the general maxim *sic utere tuo*, which in such cases is no help at all. Among these difficult problems are those which arise from interference, where the electricity of one company takes away or disturbs the electricity of another company, or where through electrolysis the escaping current damages the pipes of a water company. Fortunately, improved methods of conducting electricity obviate many of these interferences, but there is still the question as to who shall pay the cost of these improved methods. Must the company last in the field bear all the expense, or should there be an apportionment in some manner? These problems are very similar to the cases now arising in conserving water by cementing ditches.

Each topic treated by the author runs into interesting problems. One would have liked under "Power Companies," to have had a discussion of the constitutionality of the federal regulations, but the author has wisely confined himself to the cases involving the problems peculiar to electricity, and it is a great convenience to have such miscellaneous topics gathered together in one book, and the several hundred cases, half of them decided within the last few years, classified and discussed.

A. M. K.

GROWTH OF AMERICAN STATE CONSTITUTIONS FROM 1776 TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1914. By James Q. Dealey. Ginn & Co., 29 Beacon St., Boston. 1915. pp. viii, 308. \$1.40.

This will be a useful handbook to accompany such a collection as Thorpe's American Charters, Constitutions and Organic Laws. It shows a vast amount of labor in analyzing and comparing the state constitutions, and the student, teacher, or investigator having the task of making a similar examination into the development of the constitutions of a single state or of working out a comparison of the organic laws of several states, will find his labor greatly lessened by this little volume. Bibliographies enhance the value of the book.

W. C. J.